Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 /082 W

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R 051020Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6598

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, MT, LY

SUBJECT: MINOTFF MAKES ANOTHER ONE-DAY TRIP TO LIBYA

REF: (A) VALLETTA 1497 (1975), (B) 1374 (1975)

- 1. GOM PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF MADE ANOTHER ONE-DAY TRIP TO LIBYA ON JANUARY 3. MALTESE PRESS REPORTS STATED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THE QUICK VISIT WAS FOR TALKS WITH LIBYAN LEADERS "ON ECONOMIC AND INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS." IT IS LIKELY THAT THE DISCUSSIONS WERE A FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECENT AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A JOINT LIBYAN-MALTESE INDUSTRIAL HOLDING COMPANY, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL B.
- 2. MINTOFF WAS ACCOMPANIED BY THE GOM ATTORNEY GENERAL, EDGAR MIZZI; MAURICE PETROCOCCHINO OF MALTA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION; JOHN BONNICI, TECHNICAL CONSULTANT TO THE PRIME MINISTER; JOE CAMILLERI, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER; AND MOHAMMED GAMMUDI, CHAREG D'AFFAIRES OF THE LIBYAN EMBASSY IN MALTA.

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3. WHILE IN TRIPOLI, MINTOFF REPORTEDLY MET WITH

COLONEL GADHAFI, AS WELL AS THE "MINISTER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL BEN AMER" (SIC).

- 4. THE MALTESE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT COLONEL GADHAFI IS NOW SCHEDULED TO VISIT MALTA, SOMETIME IN JANUARY, TO RECEIVE OFFICIALLY THE BADGE AND SCROLL OF MALTA'S "SOCIETY OF HONOR," WHICH HE TECHNICALLY WAS "AWARDED WITH EFFECT FROM DECEMBER 5, 1975," DURING MINOTFF'S GAUCHE PROTOCOL MANEUVERS SURROUNDING THE STATE VISIT TO MALTA OF ITALIAN PRESIDENT LEONE, AS REPORTED IN REFTEL A.
- 5. COMMENT: AS THE MALTESE PARLIAMENT IS IN RECESS UNTIL JANUARY 26, IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT DETAILS OF THIS MINTOFF-GADHAFI MEETING WILL BE MADE PUBLIC. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT IT WAS ONLY ANOTHER OF MINTOFF'S EFFORTS TO KEEP UP THE MOMENTUM OF HIS SO-CALLED CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GADHAFI IN THE HOPES OF OBTAINING ASSISTANCE FOR THE MALTESE ECONOMY. SMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: CHIEF OF STATE VISITS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 05 JAN 1976 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976VALLET00006

Document Number: 1976VALLET00006
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Film Number: D760003-0605 From: VALLETTA

Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760185/aaaacxtd.tel Line Count: 81

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 76 VALLETTA 1497 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: morefirh

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 03 MAY 2004

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 MAY 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2004 by morefirh>

Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MÁY 2006

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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TAGS: PFOR, MT, LY, (MINTOFF, DOMINIC)
To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006